

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 143798
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P 211824Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CARR

SUBJECT: ARRESTEE AND PRISONER SERVICES: LEGAL AID

REF: JIDDA 4222

1. DEPARTMENT REQUIRES FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING
PURPOSE OF PROPOSED LEGAL SERVICE EXPENDITURE. AS THE
EMBASSY IS UNDOUBTEDLY AWARE AND AS WILL BE OBSERVED IN
REFERRING TO SPECIAL CONSULAR SERVICES HANDBOOK
"PROTECTION OF AMERICAN NATIONALS ARRESTED, ON TRIAL, OR
IMPRISONED" PRIMARY MOTIVATION OF OUR CONSULAR SERVICES TO
PRISONERS IS TO ASSURE FULL OBSERVATION OF THEIR LEGAL AND
HUMAN RIGHTS INCLUDING BASIC WELFARE. IT IS NOT OUR POLICY
TO URGE RELEASE OF AMERICANS PROPERLY CHARGED OR
PROPFRTY CONVICTED IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES SIMPLY BECAUSE

THEY ARE AMERICANS. NEVERTHELESS, DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES
NEED FOR FLEXIBILITY TO ALLOW FOR EXCEPTIONAL HUMANITARIAN
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CONSIDERATIONS. IF CONSIDERATION FOR AMNESTY IS AN
ACCEPTED RIGHT OF PRISONERS IN SAUDI ARABIA AND IF LACK OF
EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE WOULD DISADVANTAGE OUR CITIZENS BY
COMPARISON WITH OTHERS THE EMBASSY'S ACTIVE AID MIGHT BE
JUSTIFIABLE. INsofar AS LEGAL ADVICE AND ACTION ON
PARTICULAR CASES IS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THIS WOULD

NORMALLY BE CONSIDERED A FUNCTION OF THE INDIVIDUAL
CITIZEN'S OWN ATTORNEY.

2. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER BACKGROUND ON
INSTITUTION OF AMNESTY AND CLARIFICATION OF EMBASSY'S
REASONS FOR BELIEVING EMPLOYMENT OF LEGAL COUNSEL BY
EMBASSY NECESSARY AND JUSTIFIABLE. VANCE

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